

Hope College

## Hope College Digital Commons

---

[The Anchor: 1972](#)

[The Anchor: 1970-1979](#)

---

1-24-1972

### The Anchor, Volume 84.14: January 24, 1972

Hope College

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/anchor\\_1972](https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/anchor_1972)



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

---

#### Recommended Citation

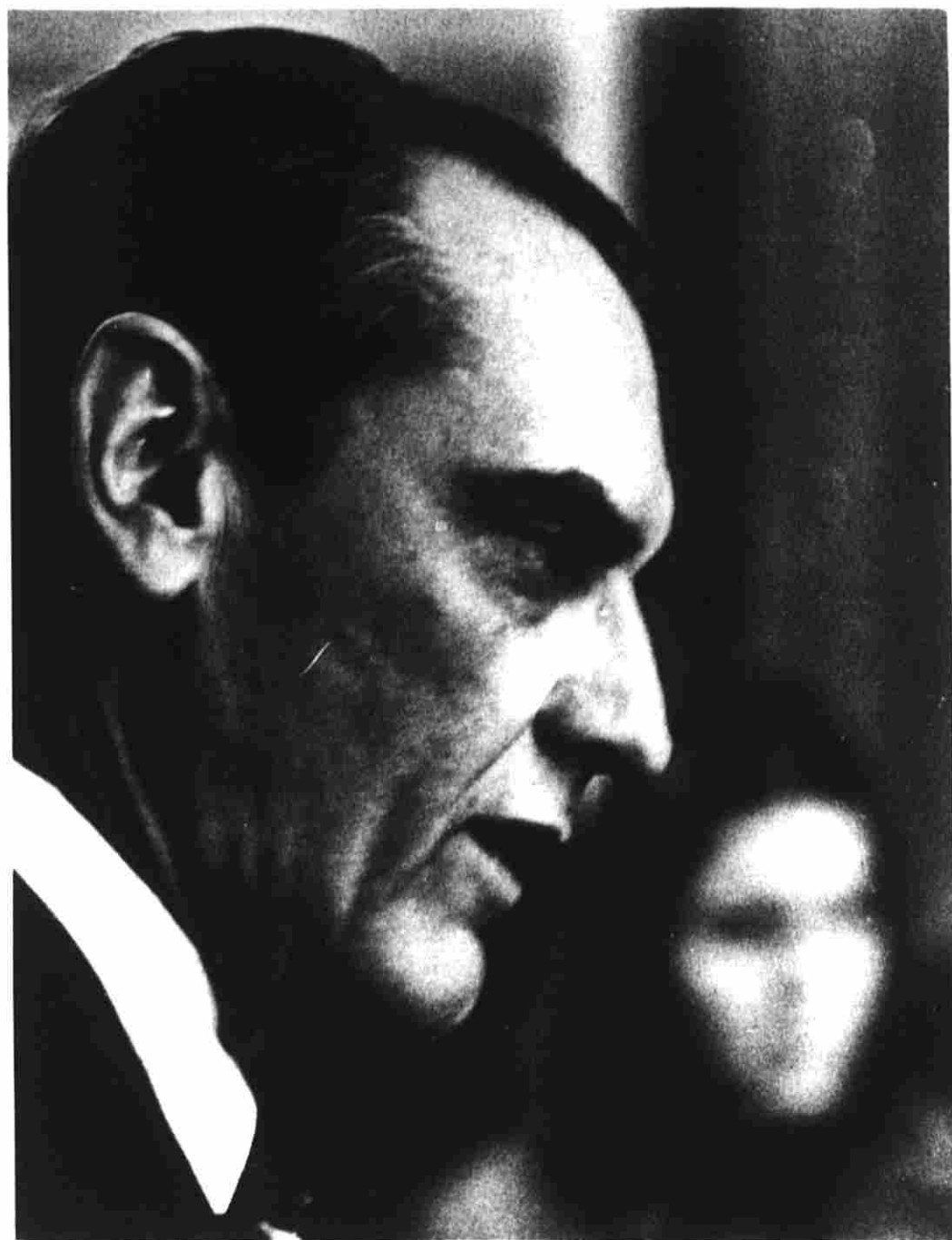
**Repository citation:** Hope College, "The Anchor, Volume 84.14: January 24, 1972" (1972). *The Anchor: 1972*. Paper 3.

[https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/anchor\\_1972/3](https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/anchor_1972/3)

**Published in:** *The Anchor*, Volume 84, Issue 14, January 24, 1972. Copyright © 1972 Hope College, Holland, Michigan.

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the The Anchor: 1970-1979 at Hope College Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Anchor: 1972 by an authorized administrator of Hope College Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@hope.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@hope.edu).

# Gordon Van Wylen named president



PRESIDENT OF HOPE COLLEGE GORDON VAN WYLEN

Dr. Gordon Van Wylen was appointed the ninth president of Hope College Friday. The appointment becomes effective July 1.

VAN WYLEN, Dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Michigan, was one of over 100 considered by the Presidential Search Committee. Last October, at the invitation of the trustees, he visited the campus and met with many administrators and faculty as well as some students.

While at U of M Van Wylen championed such controversial issues as minority recruitment and the rights of faculty members. He was also involved in controversy surrounding classified research on the university campus.

VAN WYLEN was instrumental in averting class disruptions in the engineering school during racial disturbances at U of M in 1970, according to an administrative spokesman for that institution. Van Wylen reportedly met with movement leaders and explained to them the college's program of inner-city student recruitment, tutoring and financial assistance.

Van Wylen's leadership in these programs and his willingness to listen and talk during the emotional period of the demonstration was a major factor in sparing

the engineering college any disruptions," the spokesman said.

LAST YEAR, the university's Senate Assembly charged the institutions' Willow Run Laboratories with conducting classified government research. The Assembly also considered restricting the "federal contracts of grants that limit publications of the results."

In an issue of *The Michigan Daily* Van Wylen stated that "our consideration of policies of classified research should relate to our concern for human life. It would seem that the wise course for a college is to allow its faculty to participate in classified research—at the same time promoting the open publication of basic information. It is in everyone's interest, surely, that technological developments find their way as quickly as possible from defense programs into the civilian sector of our economy," Van Wylen said.

VAN WYLEN, 51, attended Calvin College from 1937 to 1940 and the University of Michigan from 1940 to 1942 on the 3-2 plan. He received his A.B. degree from Calvin and a B.S.E. from Michigan in 1942.

Upon graduation, he took a position as an engineer with the du Pont Company. In 1943 he entered the Navy, where he received a commission as ensign and after submarine training was assigned to the U.S.S. *Hardhead*. He made six patrols in the South Pacific.

AFTER THE war, Van Wylen returned to the U of M for a Master's degree and taught at Pennsylvania State University from 1946 to 1948. Upon completing his doctoral studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in February 1951, he joined the faculty of the University of Michigan as assistant professor of mechanical engineering. Van Wylen was named chairman of the engineering department in 1958. In 1965 he was appointed dean of

the College of Engineering, which has 3100 undergraduate students, 900 graduate students and a research budget of about \$8 million per year.

VAN WYLEN'S main field of interest is thermodynamics and cryogenics. He is the author of a textbook, *Thermodynamics*, published in 1958 and translated into Arabic and Hindi.

He has co-authored three books with one of his former students, Professor R.E. Sonntag, *Fundamentals of Classical Thermodynamics*, *Fundamentals of Statistical Thermodynamics* and *Introduction to Classical and Statistical Thermodynamics*.

VAN WYLEN has been active in a number of scientific and professional societies. He is fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and a member of Sigma Xi and Tau Beta Pi, an honorary engineering society. He has served as a consultant to a number of industries and federal laboratories.

Van Wylen has also been active in a number of community and religious organizations. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship and Scripture Union, and is a member of the Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church.

## Take heed: an important announcement

This special issue of the *anchor* is the last of first semester. The *anchor* will reappear Feb. 7.

Information regarding articles, announcements or advertisements for the Feb. 7 issue should be brought to the *anchor* office, the basement of Graves Hall, no later than Thursday, Feb. 3.

# HOPE COLLEGE anchor HOLLAND, MICHIGAN

Volume 84-14

Hope College, Holland, Michigan 49423

January 24, 1972

## Van Wylen's chief task: achieving long-range goals

by Mary Houting

The major responsibility of Hope's president should be to strive to achieve the institution's long range goals in day to day decisions, according to Dr. Gordon Van Wylen, newly appointed president of the college.

"I ALSO FEEL my role as president definitely includes providing the college with spiritual and moral leadership, although more by example than by preaching," he stated.

Van Wylen made the comments at a press conference Friday after being unanimously elected by the board of trustees to fill the position left vacant by the resignation of Dr. Calvin Vander Werf in August 1970.

THROUGHOUT his remarks, Van Wylen emphasized the neces-

sity that Hope retain both its Christian character and its intellectual freedom. One of the reasons he accepted the presidency, he said, is Hope's environment of Christian freedom.

"Our nation needs church-related institutions of higher education that offer a rich Christian dimension to campus life at the same time that they preserve intellectual freedom, a free spirit of inquiry, and maintain relevance in their academic programs," Van Wylen said.

CHRISTIAN concern and love coupled with a respect for the freedom of others at Hope is one of the major differences between the environment here and at the University of Michigan, Van Wylen stated. "I think there can be a better living situation at Hope," he added.

When asked if he saw any conflicts between maintaining a Christian atmosphere and one of intellectual freedom when hiring faculty, Van Wylen admitted "there would be a tension. Sometimes one has to make hard choices."

"I THINK in hiring it is important to look at all the qualifications of an individual and pick the best people to achieve the goals of the college," he said.

Van Wylen added that the hiring of faculty is not his job alone and that a proper climate should be developed in which such questions could be resolved.

HE CALLED the political stance of a college president "a delicate matter," because of the difficulty of separating one's private convictions from his official role as representative of the college.

"I don't want politics to become a barrier between myself and the faculty," he said. "I try to avoid politicizing, but I would speak out on an issue if it involved a deep personal commitment."

HOPE OFFERS its students a unique opportunity to examine Christian truths, Van Wylen asserted, adding that every student should be free to make his own religious and moral decisions. A member of the Christian Reformed Church, Van Wylen announced he intends to change his denominational affiliation.

"I think it is appropriate that the president of Hope College be a member of the Reformed Church," he stated.

VAN WYLEN added that he feels the relationship between the church and the college is presently an influential rather than a formal one. He expressed his belief that the college can have a "tremendous impact on the denomination, primarily through the quality of its students and faculty."

When asked his reaction to Michigan's 18-year-old age of majority, Van Wylen revealed his approval of the law. "Students have played a very responsible role in society," he said.

"ESSENTIALLY the law is a *de jure* implementation of what was already a *de facto* situation," he added. "I think the students, administration and faculty of Hope are prepared to take this fully in stride."

Van Wylen said he endorses the recruitment of minority students, and has done quite a bit of it at the U of M.

"OUR GOAL should not be to integrate the college simply for the sake of integrating it," he said, "but rather to involve black people in the life of the college."

A man solidly grounded in the sciences, Van Wylen said he feels the role of the humanities should be to provide a background for the sciences, especially when value questions arise.

"ONE OF THE great things about Hope is that its students acquire a sense of the sacredness of life," he stated. "They see life as a gift from God."

When asked his opinion of partial hours at Hope, Van Wylen remarked that when students assume responsibility they are entitled to a considerable amount of freedom. He added, however, that certain rules and restrictions are necessary in any living condition.

IN A PREPARED statement issued Friday, Van Wylen revealed his reasons for accepting the presidency. Because his entire professional life has been spent in public educational institutions, he stated, he now wishes "to make whatever contribution I can to the private institutions."

"Assuming the presidency of this institution presents new opportunities for personal growth, will permit me new satisfaction as an educator and enlarge the op-

Continued on page 2, column 4

## Senior Bob Roos named new editor of 'anchor'

Senior Bob Roos was named second-semester editor of the *anchor* by the Student Communications Media Committee Wednesday.

Roos replaces graduating senior Garrett DeGraff.

A history major with a cumulative grade point average of approximately 3.2, Roos transferred to Hope in September 1970 from Metropolitan State College in Denver. While at Metropolitan Roos earned nine credit-hours in journalism.

Roos held the post of associate editor of the *anchor* for the past two semesters. In his first semester at Hope, Roos worked as a reporter.

Junior Mary Houting and sophomore Gary Gray will hold editorial positions under the new editor.



BOB ROOS



VAN WYLEN—  
meeting the press



# Contract proposal amended by academic board

by Bob Roos

The Academic Affairs Board Tuesday made several minor changes in Dean for Academic Affairs Morrette Rider's contract curriculum proposal in preparation for its probable passage at the board's next meeting.

**DISCUSSION** opened with the question whether the contract curriculum should be dealt with before the proposals to revise the college's core requirements. The board decided to conclude action on the contract curriculum before working on the other proposals.

The proposal before the board Tuesday was a slightly revised version of one Rider submitted last November. It would allow a limited number of students to write their own curriculum in consultation with a faculty "mentor." Student-proposed curricula would be subject to approval by a faculty "Contract Committee."

A STUDENT could begin working under a contract curriculum at the beginning of his sophomore year and continue until graduation if so desired.

The proposal states that the contract curriculum program is not to be considered an honors program. Students wishing to enter the program will be judged on the basis of interviews and letters

of recommendation as well as past academic records.

**THE REVISED** proposal, completed Jan. 12, differs from the November proposal in two minor respects. It stipulates that "no minimum grade point average shall be established as a prerequisite for admission into the contract curriculum," and states that the dean for academic affairs will publish a catalog in May of each year describing each contract curriculum approved by the college.

The first change the AAB made in the proposal Tuesday involves the process for selecting the faculty mentors who will help students draw up their programs. The proposal had said that mentors were to be selected by the academic dean's office.

**THE AMENDMENT** states that students will choose their mentors from faculty who volunteer, but students' choices will be subject to approval from the deans' office.

The board also changed the context in which the responsibilities involved in being a mentor will be placed. The proposal had stated that faculty members serving as mentors would do so "in addition to their normal responsibilities," but would be paid \$50 a semester for the work.

**ASSOCIATE** Professor of Religion Robert Coughenour objected to this: "Mentorship should be part of a volunteer's regular responsibilities. Perhaps a mentor should have a reduced load of advisees."

He said that if mentorship is conceived as an extra task, it "would almost be an affront to suggest that this can be done with \$50 worth of one's time."

**AFTER FURTHER** discussion, the AAB altered the section of the

proposal to say that faculty members who volunteer as mentors "will be expected to do so as part of their normal responsibilities. The faculty member will consult with his chairman and with the academic deans' office on the matter of faculty work load."

The board members also changed a sentence establishing a \$20 fee which would have been used to help pay the \$50 mentorship subsidy. The proposal now states that students will have to

pay a fee, but the amount is not specified.

**ANOTHER** question the board considered was that of judging the work of students who undertake a contract curriculum to determine whether it merits a B.A. degree.

The board members decided to add a provision saying that the Contract Committee will have authority to determine "whether the student has reached the objectives adequately" to receive the degree.

## 'Wait and see'

# Campus views Van Wylen

"Wait and see" is the attitude of most students and faculty toward Dr. Gordon Van Wylen, Hope's new president.

**MANY STUDENTS** and faculty members had no first-hand knowledge of Van Wylen before the series of meetings Friday afternoon.

Associate professor of art Robert Vickers response when asked his reaction to the appointment was typical of many faculty members. "Quite frankly," Vickers said, "I've never met the man before. I really can't say anything."

A FEW FACULTY members were more vocal. "It's a great relief to have it settled now," said Dr. David Clark, associate professor of history. "I have no doubts about his qualities as a leader and administrator. It seems he will be very clear about his own position," Clark added.

Professor of philosophy and Board of Trustees member Dr. Arthur Jentz felt that communication between the trustees and Van Wylen had improved during last week's two-day session of the board of trustees.

**HE SAID THIS** new communication should serve as a "corrective" to previous second-hand statements about the new president.

Jentz concluded that the "co-operative spirit that developed be-

tween the board and Van Wylen promises some very good things for the future of Hope College."

Students who met Van Wylen in Phelps Hall Lounge Friday afternoon were more noncommittal than the faculty. One freshman stated the new president is "being cautious in what he says." He concluded that students "shouldn't put him down right away; we should give him a chance."

**SOME STUDENTS** disapproved of Van Wylen's cautious approach to issues. Another freshman stated: "He won't commit himself until he takes office. I don't like him so far; he sounds too conservative."

A third frosh said Van Wylen was a "nice guy; just what I expected them to pick - a nice, conservative, Christian type."

## A statement to students from Gordon Van Wylen

The central mission of every college relates directly to providing the finest educational opportunities for every student. These opportunities involve not only formal educational programs in classrooms and laboratories, but also the informal associations between faculty and students, among students themselves, and the total campus community.

**HOPE COLLEGE** FOR over 100 years has held that life is a trust of God. The purpose of our educational programs must be to enable each student to prepare himself to utilize this gift of life to the fullest. Therefore each student must be recognized as an individual with different needs, talents, interests and abilities. A personalized education is necessary to achieve the purpose and goals of a Hope College education.

When a new president is chosen there is much speculation concerning the nature and style of his administration. What new direction will the college take? What revisions will be made? What is his philosophy of education? In time these are revealed.

Perhaps it is in order to enunciate some principles which will guide me as I begin in this new role.

The past is prologue. It cannot be ignored nor can it be repeated. Yet with the passage of time the situation requires a constant re-evaluation. Change for the sake of change is not really very useful. More progress can be made, I think by gradual, thoughtful reform than through crusades and grand designs.

**CERTAINLY THERE IS** much at Hope College that needs to be examined and studied. Issues such as the age of majority, curriculum reform, governance etc., are to be ignored only at great cost to the institution. The process and method of dealing with these issues is most important and will determine whether Hope continues to progress and mold together as a community or whether confrontation and its debilitating effect will dominate our lives.

Longfellow has written:

Let us, then, be up and doing,  
With a heart for any fate;  
Still achieving, still pursuing,  
Learn to labor and to wait.

Perhaps this verse contains some useful advice for us as we look forward to working as a community to develop our educational experience together.

**IT HAS BEEN REPORTED** to me that for many years Hope students needed a student center. They worked for it. Their requests for such a facility were well articulated and the meeting on the lawn of the president's home to demand some attention be given to the project was conducted in such a way that President Vander Werf, the Board of Trustees, the Reformed Church in America and Hope Alumni were motivated to work together to make it a reality.

The building was not realized at once, nor could such a structure have been offered to the student body at that time. The plans were refined and enlarged far beyond the original proposal to include a theater and book store, and an expanded fund raising effort was undertaken to finance the project. Today Hope has one of the finest student centers of any college in the nation and also one of the finest theaters.

**HOPE HAS BEGUN** construction of a new science center. Now we can look forward to securing a new physical education center. Because of your success with the student center and the effective student participation in the design and funding of that project, I am confident that the physical education center has been brought much closer to reality.

I eagerly look forward to joining with you in the spirit of a community that shares and works together. During the months ahead I hope to spend some days on campus and will attempt to arrange informal visits with various groups of students.

I extend to all those in the Hope community my great appreciation for the confidence and trust which they have shown in me and will do my very best to fulfill these responsibilities.



DR. AND MRS. GORDON VAN WYLEN MEET THE PRESS.

## Van Wylen's major task: achieving long-range goals

Continued from page 1

opportunities for me to make meaningful contributions to the world of higher education," he said.

**VAN WYLEN** voiced his faith in small private colleges like Hope to solve the problems confronting higher education. This type of "college community can be more responsive, more constructive, and more positive in its attempt to solve these problems," he stated.

The new president also announced his intention to cooperate with and support Hope's system of involving faculty, students and administrators in policy formulation and implementation.

**"WHILE** leadership is a desirable characteristic for a presi-

dent, that leadership must involve the collective wisdom of all those who are affected by the decision," Van Wylen said.

Mrs. Van Wylen, who holds a medical degree, said she envisions her role as the first lady of Hope College to be primarily that of a wife and mother. Secondly, she said, she will try to work on a one-to-one basis with people, "getting to know individuals."

Because Van Wylen's appointment will not be effective until July 1, he said he plans to spend one or two days a month before summer visiting the college in order to become acquainted with students and faculty.



HOPE COLLEGE  
**anchor**  
OLLAND, MICHIGAN



Published during the college year except vacation, holiday and examination periods by and for the students of Hope College, Holland, Michigan, under the authority of the Student Communications Media Committee. Subscription price: \$7 per year. Printed by the Composing Room, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Member, Associated Collegiate Press, United States Student Press Association. Office located on ground floor of Graves Hall. Telephone 392-5111, Extension 2301 and 2285. The opinions on this page are not necessarily those of the student body, faculty or administration of Hope College.

Editor ..... Garrett DeGraff  
Associate editor ..... Bob Roos  
Assistant editor ..... Mary Houting  
News editor ..... Gary Gray